

critical open spaces. Existing and proposed off-street trails are also indicated to identify greenway corridors that can help to protect and connect key resource areas. Finally, natural resource planning areas are suggested to provide a structure for more detailed inventory and planning activities.

The Ecological Framework provides a starting point for discussion in setting priorities for land and/or easement acquisition, updating ordinances to better protect natural features and/or developing incentives for conservation and restoration. Green Grand Rapids participants have identified several priority areas and initiatives for consideration.

Priority areas include:

- the Grand River;
- Plaster Creek;
- the Silver Creek Drain.

Priority initiatives include:

- increasing the width of riparian buffers (particularly along the Grand River; Lamberton Creek and Indian Mill Creek);
- exploring the potential to “daylight” tributary streams that are now underground in pipes (Coldbrook Creek; Silver Creek Drain);
- continuing the development of greenways (with a bicycle/pedestrian trail) along the Grand River and Plaster Creek;
- exploring the potential to create greenways along the Silver Creek Drain and through the Valley Avenue area (to connect John Ball Park to Indian Mill Creek).

Figure 4.b - Ecological Framework

